
V. BASE PROGRAMS ANALYSIS AND "ACTION NOW" IMPLEMENTATION

Once the Program Inventory has been completed, existing base monitoring and management programs can be scrutinized for effectiveness in relation to the identified problems of the estuary. This analysis is necessary because various agencies have differing jurisdictions resulting in varying regulatory and monitoring approaches which have never been considered from a system-wide perspective. The human impacts to Galveston Bay are cumulative in the entire system, and affect the Bay's identified problems in the estuary as a whole.

The goal of the base programs analysis is to identify duplicated efforts, gaps and weaknesses in ongoing management and regulatory programs and in base data collection efforts for monitoring (see pages 56-60 of Governor's Nomination). Results of the analysis are then incorporated into a Base Programs Action Plan to correct any noted deficiencies. The appropriate changes will be implemented as "Action Now" activities representing interim management implementation, undertaken well ahead of the final CCMP. This assures effective actions are taken early to conserve vital living resources.

This work will specifically address OMEP guidance element number 3, development of a base programs analysis with an "Action Now" agenda. The following program components describe work to be completed:

- o Identify existing base programs based on the Program Inventory and characterize their scopes, overlaps, and deficiencies.
- o Prepare draft Base Programs Action Plan, based on existing base programs and their relation to identified priority problems in the estuary and pertinent bay characterization data. Draft report is reviewed by Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee and transmitted to Management Committee with any public comment.
- o Submit final Base Programs Action Plan to Policy Committee for approval.
- o Distribute final Base Programs Action Plan to public and EPA Region VI and OMEP.
- o Set a schedule and implement modifications recommended in Base Programs Action Plan to redirect existing agency base programs toward solving targeted priority problems.
- o Modify action plans, as necessary, throughout the process, as supported by new information or deliberations of the Management Conference.